

Note

This simple tabular design is based on the *relational database model*, which is one of the most common and well-known design models used in modern databases. The Base component of LibreOffice is a fully featured relational database management system.

Calc as a database-like program

In some respects, a Calc sheet is similar to a database table, and it is even possible for a database table to be contained in a Calc sheet. Calc offers several features, particularly sorting and filtering, that allow users to search its tables, equivalent to the facilities that would be found in a database program such as LibreOffice Base. While this does not make Calc a replacement for a fully featured database application, it is nevertheless useful for managing data in a small-scale personal or professional context.

Associating a range with a name

In order to set up a database table in a Calc sheet, you first need to set up an area for it to occupy. This is necessary since some of Calc's database-like features depend on accessing or modifying a table's location. Such an area is represented by a *range*, which is a contiguous group of one or more cells. To make the range for a table easy to access, you can assign a meaningful name to it. Doing this has four particular benefits:

- **Giving a range a name makes it easier to identify**, especially if you are working with multiple ranges in a document.
- **A named range can be referenced by its name rather than just by its address**. For example, if you have a range named *Scores*, you can simply reference it in a cell with a formula like `=SUM(Scores)`.
- **References by name to a named range are automatically updated every time the range's address is changed**. This avoids the need to change individual references every time a range's location is modified.
- **All named ranges can be quickly viewed and accessed through the Navigator**, which is opened by selecting **View > Navigator** on the Menu bar, pressing the *F5* key, or clicking the **Navigator** icon on the Sidebar tab panel.

Two types of named range exist in Calc: *database ranges*, which store settings for database-like operations, and standard *named ranges*, which do not.

Named ranges

Standard named ranges are created using the Define Name dialog (Figure 453), which is opened by selecting **Sheet > Named Ranges and Expressions > Define** on the Menu bar.